

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution Celebrating the Importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a Meaningful Effort by Arab Countries to the Commitment of Peace in the Middle East.

I recently travelled to Israel for the 18th time as a Member of Congress. While in Israel and Jordan, I attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings focused on security and the outlook for the region in the coming year. I always welcome these opportunities to meet with senior leaders on such a wide range of issues, and our conversations touched on political developments, regional security in the Middle East, the peace process, and strengthening the bilateral relationships between the United States and these nations.

Although the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be a major challenge, I believe we must stay actively involved in peace negotiations. I am happy to say that recently, Israel and some Muslim-majority Arab nations in the Middle East have made progress in regional cooperation. I believe that, using the Arab Peace Initiative as a baseline, these recent developments present a renewed opportunity for progress—one that we cannot afford to miss.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution highlights the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and urges the nations to continue the hard work of fostering stronger relationship. Under the right circumstances, the Arab Peace Initiative allows for gradual progress towards the normalization of bilateral relations between Israel and its neighbors. We all know that the relationship between America and Israel is paramount, and I have faith that, in time, the relationships between Israel and other nations will also strengthen. I commend the regional countries that have taken steps to facilitate the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while simultaneously strengthening regional security through discussions with the State of Israel. I urge all parties to continue these important dialogues.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ascension to the Presidency of the Arab League. The United States established relations with Jordan in 1949 and our countries have a long history of cooperation. Jordan has taken on an important role in pursuing progress for the region. I congratulate my friend King Abdullah II and wish Jordan the very best as it assumes this new leadership role for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution today, and recommend its expeditious consideration and passage.

CELEBRATING JUANITA SEARFOSS ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juanita Searfoss, a great Hoosier who is celebrating her 90th birthday today.

Juanita M. Searfoss was born on March 27, 1927, in South Bend, Indiana, to Dorothea M. and Herschel A. Sharp, who were loving Christian parents. She also had three brothers, David C. Sharp (deceased), Jerry D. Sharp of Bonita Springs, Florida, and Ronald (Mary) Sharp of South Bend.

On October 7, 1950, she married Clifford L. Searfoss. They were married for 55 years until his death in 2005. Their loving marriage produced six children, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Juanita graduated from Central High School in South Bend and Indiana University in Bloomington with a degree in medical technology. She worked for the South Bend Medical Foundation, retiring after 21 years of service.

Juanita has always been active in her church—she has been a member of the Sonlight Fellowship Wesleyan Church since the age of ten—and various volunteer and service organizations. For many years she has planned and made a meal every two months for Hope Ministries. She was a member of Faith in Action, did respite care for several families, and helped support several missionaries, as well as the Northern Indiana Food Bank and Chiara House. She is a member of the St. Joseph County Home Extension Normain club, a Bible study group, Gleaners, a Red Hat Society group, and a hospice organization, just to name a few. In 2008 she was awarded the Golden Hoosier Award for her volunteer work. She still loves to read, travel, play the piano, crochet, and spend time with her family and friends.

Many have benefitted from her strong faith, her kind and caring nature, her quiet wisdom, and her unconditional love.

Happy 90th Birthday, Juanita.

IN HONOR OF DONNETTA WALSER

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Donnetta Walser.

Donnetta spent her life dedicated to improving her local community. Her 28 years as an educator, including many in the Monroe School District, is a testament to her steadfast commitment to her students.

After her career in public education, Donnetta spent 32 years in public service, serving on the Monroe City Council, Monroe Civil Service Commission, U.S. 2 Safety Coalition, Snohomish County Senior Services Board of Directors, Snohomish County League of Women Voters, and two terms as the Mayor of Monroe.

Donnetta had such a positive impact on so many people throughout our community. Her

kind and compassionate spirit and willingness to take on tough tasks will surely be missed. Although she has passed on, her memory and impact will continue to live on.

My heart goes out to her husband: Fred; her sons and daughters-in-law: Scott and Stacey and Matt and Kimberly; her grandchildren; and all of her family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEENS HELPING KIDS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Teens Helping Kids as they celebrate their 10th year of service.

Located in the South Texas city of Brownsville, Teens Helping Kids was founded in 2008 by five high school juniors. Since its formation, the club has raised and donated funds to organizations that provide services to children, and its teen members have volunteered time and energy to helping those who need it most.

Each year, Teens Helping Kids partners with Cameron County Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. to host the Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner, which has raised more than \$800,000 since its inception. This year, its members plan to meet their \$1,000,000 goal. The success of this event will be felt region-wide as Teens Helping Kids will be donating proceeds to local children's nonprofits such as Ozanam Center, Tip of Texas Family Outreach, Monica's House, and Maggie's House.

Teens Helping Kids has made a lasting, positive impact in our community, and they will continue to play a role in the improvement of South Texas. I rise today to congratulate them for their decade of success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT GEORGE EVANS, JR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decent and generous American, Mr. Robert George Evans, Jr., who passed away on March 16, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

Robbie was a lifelong New Orleanian. He graduated from Archbishop Shaw High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of New Orleans. After college he rose to the position of Vice President for the family steel drum business, Evans Cooperage. He later founded Con-Tech International which began selling industrial steel drum parts and related items. Under his leadership, the company has grown into an international corporation supplying steel and hundreds of custom manufactured parts to various industries across the globe.

I met Robbie through a mutual friend, Jerry Bonnet. It was a few years after Hurricane Katrina and I was still Indiana Secretary of State. My office had "adopted" an inner city school in Indianapolis, and I heard that Robbie and New Orleans were doing some amazing

work with parental choice in schools in the Hurricane's aftermath that basically destroyed a lot of public school infrastructure. We had been personal friends ever since that first meeting.

Robbie helped lead a "Phoenix from the ashes" movement in the New Orleans schools. The success was due to the need to throw away the old bureaucracy, rules, and the attitude that the schools existed for the adults in them rather than for the kids. Robbie helped turn that all-around, attracting national attention for the model. He devoted hundreds of hours annually to improving New Orleans public schools and the lives of the students attending them. He was an unapologetic advocate for inner-city students attending Lafayette Academy and Esperanza Charter School. He served as a board member for the Choice Foundation where he was both the Vice Chairman and Executive Committee member. Robbie served on many other boards and committees, each with a goal to improve and enhance the economic environment or educational opportunity of his community.

Robbie was a man of high character and integrity. He had a servant's heart for his community and those who live in it. His love for New Orleans and its culture was evident in his words and actions. Robbie was an art, architecture, and history enthusiast. He loved to travel the country and world meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. He was a friend to many people and an advocate for more. His obituary was correct in all respects, including that he indeed was a terrible driver.

Robbie leaves Barbara, his beloved wife of 34 years, his daughter and son, and many other family and friends to carry on his legacy of service to their communities. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for New Orleans and our nation. Rest in peace Robbie, you will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY BEILENSEN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of the Honorable Anthony C. Beilenson—father, husband, grandfather, California legislator, and United States Congressman—who passed away on March 5, 2017.

Tony Beilenson grew up in New Rochelle, New York. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1957, he moved to Los Angeles to practice law in the film industry. Always striving to give back to the world and do as much good as possible, Tony decided to forgo his legal practice to serve the public and he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1962. In 1966, he continued his service to the people of California and was elected to the State Senate.

During his tenure in the California State Legislature, Tony worked hard to protect the environment and reproductive rights, and was respected by his colleagues regardless of party for his unparalleled collegiality and civility when working to address the most chal-

lenging issues of his time. He was widely known for voting and acting according to his thoughtful and well-informed conscience, which inspired his colleagues to eschew partisanship and elevate constructive discourse.

Tony continued his legacy of effective and impactful lawmaking when he was elected in 1976 to serve in Congress, representing parts of the San Fernando Valley, Thousand Oaks and Agoura Hills. He will forever be remembered for his landmark 1978 legislation that established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, protecting part of Southern California's most treasured natural landscape for future generations to explore and enjoy.

As a Member of Congress, Tony fought hard to support environmental initiatives such as the Clean Air Act and securing funding for the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Refuge and Lake Balboa Park, which was renamed the Anthony C. Beilenson Park in 1998. He was a powerful advocate for reducing government waste and promoting efficiency. Tony's former colleagues share a deep respect for the integrity, class, and sensibility that he championed throughout his tenure in office.

Tony is survived by his wife, Dolores; his sons, Adam and Peter; his daughter Dayna; and nine grandchildren. I hope that his family will take comfort in the remarkable legacy that he established at every turn of his life as an accomplished public servant. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING MR. BRENDEN SHIPLEY WITH THE 2017 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Mr. Brenden Shipley of West Palm Beach with the Congressional Award of Bronze and Silver Medals. Since 1979, the Congressional Award has inspired our nation's youth to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Recipients are committed to bettering themselves and to giving back to the communities in which they reside. It is the fulfilling of that commitment, which makes these young people so extraordinary.

Mr. Shipley took on the challenge of earning two medals: Bronze and Silver. Earning these awards requires a minimum of 400 hours of community service. He served his community by volunteering at the Kids Cancer Foundation, tutoring kids in math, cleaning the football field at school, and helping one of his friends move into his new home. In addition, he learned how to build a house and commercial buildings, and improved his physical fitness for his senior year football season by weightlifting and boxing. Furthermore, Mr. Shipley planned a seventeen day trip to France, England, Ireland, and Wales to immerse himself in an unfamiliar culture and to develop a spirit of adventure.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." I believe that Mr.

Brenden Shipley is a remarkable young man who exemplifies that true character. I am honored to present him with the 2017 Congressional Award for Bronze and Silver Medals, and to recognize him for all of his hard work in the West Palm Beach community. I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2017

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1966—51 years ago, this past Saturday—Dr. King spoke these words: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death."

We came to this floor to fight TrumpCare last week with the moral force of Dr. Martin Luther King's words in our heart. Affordable health care is a civil right; a fundamental right for every American. As we remember Dr. King's wisdom, as we debated this bill: we did so in tribute to our colleague BOBBY RUSH's late wife, Carolyn Rush. Carolyn was active in the civil rights movement, and she was a champion for Americans' health care. Her funeral was Saturday, the 51st anniversary of Dr. King's words. We were proud to honor Carolyn Rush's memory by saving the Affordable Care Act from repeal and protecting the health of the American people.

Speaker RYAN called this bill an "act of mercy." There is no mercy here. Indeed, inequality and inhumanity is exactly what TrumpCare has in store for the American people.

Sister Simone Campbell said: "This is not the faithful way forward and must be rejected." The Catholic Health Association wrote: "We strongly encourage the full House to reject this 'replacement' bill." As the United Methodist Church said, opposing TrumpCare: "People will die because of efforts like this to roll back health care." Lutheran Services in America said TrumpCare "will jeopardize the health care and long term services and supports of millions of Americans." The Episcopal Church says TrumpCare "falls woefully short of our spiritual calling to care for the 'least of these,' as well as the noble values upon which our great nation was founded."

Rather than an act of mercy, TrumpCare is a moral monstrosity that will devastate seniors, children and hard-working Americans. I grant our Republican friends their position. I respect them and their constituents who sent them here. But I do not accept the wrong priorities in TrumpCare—tax cuts for the rich at the expense of tens of millions of working families across America.

TrumpCare spotlights the difference in the priorities of the Democrats and Republicans in Congress—whether we in Congress believe in a public role in meeting the needs of the American people. It is about governance itself. Trumpcare is consistent with the Ryan budget that destroys the Medicare guarantee. It is a step forward in the long-standing Republican belief that Medicare should "wither on the